

REMARKS

A number of informalities have been corrected.

The Examiner stated that claims 5 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 5 and 15 have been rewritten as new independent claims 17 and 25, respectively. In addition, new claim 21 includes the limitations of claim 17 and is therefore believed to be allowable for at least the reasons stated for claim 17.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,914,637 issued to Wolf et al in view of U.S. 2002/0075902 issued to Abbas et al. The Wolf reference describes a communications system that includes a transmitter, a receiver, and a serial (TMDS) link. In particular, the receiver 2' of Fig. 2 is an element of a sink device that also includes EDID ROM 23, microcontroller 25, display circuitry 26, and audio digital-to-analog converter 27. EDID ROM 23 is coupled to the DDC channel of the TMDS link and stored status and configuration bits which can be read by microcontroller 15 over the DDC channel. (see column 12, lines 47 - 53) Therefore, the TMDS link described in Wolf is, in fact, bi-directional since the DDC channel (which is part of the TMDS link) must provide a means by which the microcontroller 15 reads the configuration bits stored in the EDID ROM 23. (Also note that in Fig. 2, the TMDS link is clearly shown to be bi-directional in nature).

The Examiner attempted to overcome this deficiency of Wolf by citing Abbas ("Abbas however discloses a separate control information channel..." at page 6 second paragraph of the Office Action dated 08/09/2005). However, as seen in Fig. 1B of Abbas, the control information channel is uni-directional in nature and cannot, therefore, be used to pass information between a transmitter unit and a receiver unit as required by the invention.

More specifically, claim 1 provides for a uni-directional main link and a bi-directional auxiliary channel that are separate from each other (since one is specifically uni-directional in nature and the other is specifically bi-directional in nature). As pending, claim 1 recites,

In a system having a bi-directional auxiliary channel arranged to transfer information between a video source and a video display and vice versa and a unidirectional main link arranged to carry a number multimedia data packets from the video source to the video display, a method of establishing a stable main link, comprising:

prior to starting transmission of multimedia data packet streams from a video source to the video display over the main link,
using a link training session carried out over the auxiliary channel to establish the stable main link.

Therefore, the Applicants believe that claim 1 as currently pending is neither suggested nor rendered obvious by either Wolf or Abbas taken separately or in any combination thereof.

All of the remaining claims were rejected as being obvious under Wolf in view of Abbas and further in view of U.S. 2004/0103333 issued to Martwick which does nothing to cure the deficiencies of either Wolf or Abbas. Therefore, the Applicants believe that all remaining claims are also allowable over the cited art.

Therefore, the Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable. Should the Examiner believe that a further telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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